
Bitesize History - Antiquities

Bodle



A Bodle, or Bothwell, was found on the top of Downie's Castle in 1824. A thistle is figured on one side of it, and on the other, or head side, is a crown. The date and inscriptions could not be deciphered. It is of impure metal, or alloyed. James V began the use of the thistle in 1514. James VI, abandoning alloy in his coins, introduced the pure mixture in 1580.



Accordingly, this coin may have been minted between 1514 and 1580. One Steel, who was head gardener at Castlesemple, had this bodle at one time in his possession, and from him it passed into the hands of the late Col. Harvey, and must now be preserved in the museum at Castlesemple.

A gold coin was found on the site of the battle field of Muirdykes some thirty or forty years ago. It is about the size of a guinea, but rather thinner. It is a coin of one of the Jameses, and may be that called a Rose Noble. It was in the possession, some years ago, of the late Mr Robert Caldwell, of East Muirdykes, proprietor of the land, who discovered it in the course of some agricultural operations.



A Bodle was a Scottish copper coin, less value than a bawbee and worth about one-sixth of an English penny.

A Noble was an English gold coin worth six shillings and eight pence - one third of a pound

N.B. Not the actual coins.

Addendum

In 1960, at the time when the houses were built, Tommy Brown, a schoolboy, found a bronze Roman coin between Ewing Road and Semple Avenue